

## ANNOUNCEMENT

With this, the first number of *The Western Australian Naturalist* in its new style, we feel it desirable to give some idea of the function which it is intended to perform.

Excepting in the realm of bird-study, which has been well served by *The Emu*, the journal of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, field-naturalists in this State have been handicapped by the lack of a suitable periodical in which to record their observations and studies. In former years the *Journal of the W.A. Natural History Society* served as an appropriate medium, but in the course of time this society evolved into the Royal Society of Western Australia and its journal has become the organ for the publication of the results of formal and organised, mostly professional, research.

It is not intended, however, that *The Western Australian Naturalist* should be a magazine of popular natural history, as other publications both here and in the Eastern States cater admirably for this aspect of the subject. The matter published will represent the original work of our member field-naturalists, work that will be a contribution to the knowledge of our flora and fauna. Nevertheless, the journal should be of interest to that section of the general public which has a taste for natural history and we hope it will prove of value to schools and societies where natural history subjects are studied.

We hope also that the publication of *The Western Australian Naturalist* will serve another purpose; that it will be a stimulus to those naturalists who have come in the possession of facts of value concerning our wild life but have failed to put them on record. Much valuable material, which could be used as "source data" by present and future students has been lost in this way during the years owing to the lack of a convenient journal in which it could be recorded.

Finally, we hope that this journal will help to increase the numbers of those interested in natural history and to contribute in some small way in forwarding the ever-growing interest in the study and appreciation of nature.

Ultimately, *The Western Australian Naturalist* will be published at regular intervals, but in the meantime it will appear "from time to time".

V. N. SERVENTY,

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